



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO  
MAYOR JERRY SANDERS

## San Diego Public Library

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **IRON LADIES OF LIBERIA TO SCREEN AT CENTRAL LIBRARY**

*Focuses on President Sirleaf's first year in government, providing a unique insight into the workings of the newly elected African cabinet*

**SAN DIEGO** – The San Diego Public Library will host a film showing of Iron Ladies of Liberia. In this captivating documentary, we see how Africa's first freely elected female head of state, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, president of Liberia runs her fledgling presidency. The film will be shown on Wednesday, February 27, at 6:30 PM in the 3rd floor auditorium of the Central Library, located at 820 E Street in downtown San Diego. A discussion will follow the film presentation. This event is FREE to the public.

After nearly two decades of brutal civil war, Liberia faces huge difficulties: a shattered infrastructure, crippling debt, rampant corruption and cronyism. It's a nation desperate for change – and Liberian women are starting to make it happen. Directed by Coloradan Daniel Junge and Liberian native Siatta Scott Johnson, Iron Ladies of Liberia is an exclusive, behind-the-scenes look at democracy in action – not to mention history in the making, as a determined group of female leaders facilitate the rebirth of their nation.

In November 2005, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf won a surprise victory over international soccer star George Weah to become Africa's first elected female president. A former finance minister known as the Iron Lady, Sirleaf quickly appointed a number of women to cabinet positions – including the minister of finance, the minister of commerce and the chief of police. The stakes were high and the outcome uncertain – but their commitment never faltered. With incredible access, Junge and Johnson followed the Iron Ladies over the course of their turbulent first year in office, during which they faced challenges from all directions: corrupt political rivals went on

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the attack, angry mobs of decommissioned soldiers gathered in protest on the streets, and the international community mounted bureaucratic hurdles. Turning on such pivotal moments, this documentary presents an unusually redemptive chapter in recent African history – one that offers a new paradigm for leadership around the world.

Community Cinema is affiliated with the independent media organization ITVS or Independent Television Service. ITVS Community Cinema is a monthly screening series that pairs independently produced documentary films with leading organizations working to resolve related social issues in communities across the country. All film content featured in ITVS Community Cinema will broadcast nationally on the Emmy Award-winning PBS series Independent Lens.

Learn about other events at the San Diego Public Library's Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library's catalog online at [www.sandiegolibrary.org](http://www.sandiegolibrary.org).

*The City of San Diego Public Library Your Link to the Past and Gateway to the Future*

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